

Dear Sir/Madam:

I ask that you oppose Section 22 of HB6357, which proposes adding to the cost of \$4 million annually, the Healthy Foods Initiative to the CIA program.

I am in the profession of education and believe that we must work to teach our children about healthy food choices and I support Connecticut's Healthy Foods Initiative, however, I am also active in my town's Land Trust and we work hard to preserve open space and farm land. Land in Connecticut is very expensive. Our Trust depends upon the help that the CFPA can provide and, specifically the funds from CIA in order to preserve land forever. Goshen has one dairy farm left - down from 47 fifty years ago. The Northwest corner of Connecticut is a resource our state is proud of and it takes hard work and financial support to keep it as a rural resource. The water quality of Torrington and Waterbury and the towns that surround us are dependent upon our watershed areas. Bake sales can not bring in enough to buy and protect an acre of land. We depend upon state sources for funding.

Can life get any more ironic than to have the government take funding away from programs that preserve farmland and give it to programs that educate children to eat healthy natural foods?? Hello! Where do you think the healthy natural foods come from?

The Healthy Foods Initiative belongs under the auspices and funding responsibility of the Department of Education. It makes sense to have it be a stand alone line item in the SDE budget. The program should be imbedded in the framework and curricula at each grade level, not an isolated program using the funding that is desperately needed to protect our state from losing some of our most beautiful and historically important resources.

Thank you for your time,  
Joyce Mowrey  
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